

Message Text

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ACTION XMB-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 OPIC-03

SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01 FEA-01 OES-07

/064 W

-----111256Z 037198 /44

R 111000Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL ORAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 17

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

C O N F I D E N T I A L ORAN 0026

EXIM FOR CLAYTON NORRIS AND CHARLES BECKER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENR, ECRE, BENC, AG

SUBJECT: START-UP OF SONATRACH/EL PASO LNG-I AT BETHIOUA FURTHER
DELAYED

1. TARGET DATE FOR START-UP OF LNG-I FIRST TRAIN, WHICH BECHTEL INTERNATIONAL BUILDING FOR EL PASO AND SONATRACH AT BETHIOUA, HAS SLIPPED FROM DECEMBER 18, 1977 TO END OF FEBRUARY 1978, SOME EVEN SAY APRIL 1978. THIS HAS NOT BEEN ADMITTED OFFICIALLY BUT SEVERAL PERSONS DIRECTLY INVOLVED WITH PROJECT HAVE TOLD CONSULATE NOBODY BELIEVES DECEMBER DEADLINE CAN BE MET. THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANY SINGLE FACTOR RESPONSIBLE FOR DELAY, ONLY USUAL PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED BY ANY COMPANY TRYING TO COMPLETE PROJECT QUICKLY.

2. VISIT TO LNG-I SITE ON JUNE 7 SHOWED CONSTRUCTION APPEARS TO BE MOVING AHEAD AT ALL LEVELS. THERE ARE 6,000 WORKERS ON SITE, INCLUDING 1,500 EXPATRIATES. SEVERAL COMPLAINED ABOUT SLOWNESS OF PROGRESS. THEY SAY THERE ARE PROBLEMS EVERYWHERE: AVAILABILITY OF SUPPLIES AND MATERIALS, PRODUCTIVITY OF LOCAL MANPOWER, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE DELAYS. SUM TOTAL HINDERS VERY
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IMPRESSIVE EFFORT THAT, IN OUR OPINION, BECHTEL MAKING TO MEET
TARGET COMPLETION DATE.

3. EVERY COMPONENT OF PROJECT IS NOW READILY IDENTIFIABLE: ALL SIX TRAINS, PIPELINE FROM HASSI R'MEL, CRYOGENIC EXCHANGERS, WATER COOLING SYSTEM AND STORAGE TANKS, SO THAT GENERAL IMPRESSION IS ENCOURAGING. AS ONE BECHTEL SITE SUPERVISOR SAID: "WE ARE

OVER THE HUMP NOW AND THE END IS IN SIGHT."

4. IT NOW SEEMS AS THOUGH LNG-I AND NEW BETHIOUA PORT WILL BE
READY START SHIPPING ALGERIAN LNG TO US PORTS, AT LEAST ON
LIMITED BASIS, BY ABOUT MARCH 1978. PERHAPS MOST DIFFICULT
REMAINING QUESTION IS WHETHER HASSI R'MEL FACILITIES WILL BE
READY TO SEND NECESSARY VOLUME OF GAS NEEDED TO FEED LNG-I
WHEN ALL 6 TRAINS ARE COMPLETED.HEYNIGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LPG, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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ISecure: 1
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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TAGS: ENRG, ECRE, BENC, AG
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